

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 9, 2004.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the Formal Drawings filed on December 21, 2001, are accepted.

Further, the Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim to foreign priority. However, the Examiner has only confirmed receipt of some of the certified copies of the priority documents, without attaching in the Office Action a detailed list of the certified copies not yet received.

Based on our review of the file, the present application claims priority from a single priority document, namely, Japanese Application No. 2000-388046, which was filed with the PTO on December 21, 2001. Therefore, since all of the documents from which the present application claims priority have been submitted, Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Status of the Application

By the present amendment, claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-18, 20-27, and 29 have been amended. In addition, claims 3, 13, 19, and 28 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-18, 20-27, and 29 are all the claims pending in the Application, with claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, 14-15, 17, 20-22, 24, 26, and 29 being in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10-12, 15-18, 21, 23, and 26-27 have been rejected.

The present amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-4, 6, 8-9, 13-14, 19-20, 22, 24-25, and 28-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants hereby rewrite independent claims 1, 11, 17, and 26 to incorporate the recitations of their respective dependent claims 3, 13, 19, and 28. Thus, amended claims 1, 11, 17, and 26 correspond, respectively, to claims 3, 13, 19, and 28 rewritten in independent form. Further, Applicants hereby rewrite claims 4, 6, 8, 14, 20, 22, 24, and 29 in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 29 are immediately allowable. Moreover, Applicants submit that claims 2, 7, 9-10, 12, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 27 are allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Specification

The Examiner has not set forth any specific objections to the Specification. However, the Examiner has requested Applicants' cooperation in correcting any errors in the Specification of which Applicants may have become aware. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the Specification as set forth above to correct various informalities.

V. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 for allegedly lacking antecedent basis. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 17, 18, 21, 23, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,317,657 to George (hereinafter “George”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for *at least* the reasons stated below.

As already discussed above, Applicants submit that, in view of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter, claims 1, 2, 7, 17, 18, 23, 26, and 27 are immediately allowable.

Furthermore, with respect to claims 5 and 21, according to the MPEP, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP § 2131. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 21 positively recite limitations which are not disclosed (or suggested) by George.

A. Independent Claim 5

Independent claim 5 recites (among other things):

wherein said switch controlling means
switches said memory to be protected to a low
power mode at a time of switching said power
supply of said memory to the standby power.

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner alleges that the refresh mode, as disclosed in column 2, lines 9-15 of George, corresponds to “a low power mode,” as recited in claim 5. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

George does not disclose or suggest that the SDRAM disclosed therein is switched to any sort of low power mode whatsoever. As disclosed in the present specification, for instance, a determined sequence command is issued to the DIMMs 31 to set them in low power mode. *See*

page 16, lines 23-25. Consequently, the power consumption of the DIMMs 31 coming into the low power mode is very little which, in turn, makes backup for a long period of time possible. *See* page 17, lines 5-6.

In contrast to the requirements of claim 5, George does not disclose or suggest that the power consumption of the SDRAMs is reduced at all during the self-refresh mode disclosed therein. To the contrary, George discloses that during power-down events (i.e., whenever the power goes down, there is a power failure, etc.) the self-refresh module generates SDRAM control signals for transitioning the SDRAM from normal mode to self-refresh mode. *See* column 2, lines 12-15. However, George provides no disclosure whatsoever that the SDRAMs are switched to any sort of low power mode, as required by claim 5.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 5 is not anticipated by (i.e. is not readable on) George for *at least* these reasons. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

B. Independent Claim 21

Independent claim 21 recites (among other things):

switching said memory to be protected to a
low power mode at a time of switching said power
supply of said memory to the standby power;

In view of the similarity between these requirements and the requirements discussed above with respect to independent claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing arguments as to the patentability of independent claim 5 apply at least by analogy to claim 21. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over George *at*

least for reasons analogous to those presented above. Thus, the allowance of this claim is respectfully solicited of the Examiner.

VII. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10-12, 15-18, 21, 23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over George. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for *at least* the reasons stated below.

As already discussed above, Applicants submit that, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, claims 1, 2, 7, 10-12, 16-18, 23, 26, and 27 are immediately allowable.

Additionally, with respect to claims 5, 15, and 21, in order for the Examiner to maintain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, George must teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 5, 15, and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that George fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 5, 15, and 21.

A. Independent Claim 5

For *at least* the reasons discussed above, George fails to teach or suggest all the requirements of claim 5. Specifically, George fails to provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever that the SDRAMs, as taught therein, are switched to any type of low power mode. Therefore, George fails to teach or suggest that a switch controlling means switches said memory to be protected to a low power mode at a time of switching said power supply of said memory to the standby power, as required by claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 5 is patentable over the George for *at least* these reasons. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

B. Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 recites (among other things):

wherein said switch controlling means
switches said memory to be protected to a low
power mode at a time of switching said power
supply of said memory to the standby power.

In view of the similarity between these requirements and the requirements discussed above with respect to independent claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing arguments as to the patentability of independent claim 5 apply at least by analogy to claim 15. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over George *at least* for reasons analogous to those presented above. Thus, the allowance of this claim is respectfully solicited of the Examiner.

C. Independent Claim 21

For *at least* the reasons discussed above, George also fails to teach or suggest all the requirements of claim 21. Specifically, George fails to teach or suggest that the SDRAMs, as taught therein, are switched to any sort of low power mode. As a result, George fails to teach or suggest switching said memory to be protected to a low power mode at a time of switching said power supply of said memory to the standby power, as required by claim 21.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 is patentable over the George for *at least* these reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

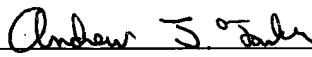
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